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DATE: 7 Aug
ITEM: NO. 19
REF: NO.

THUERMER
LEGCO

UPI-139

(RFE)

WASHINGTON--THE HOUSE TODAY PASSED 375 TO 7 AND SENT TO PRESIDENT NIXON LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CONTINUE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR ONE MORE YEAR OF RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY.

THE BILL WOULD AUTHORIZE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1973 APPROPRIATIONS OF UP TO \$38.5 MILLION FOR THE TWO PRIVATELY OWNED STATIONS, BOTH OF WHICH BEAM THEIR BROADCASTS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN.

FUNDING OF THE TWO STATIONS BECAME EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY LAST YEAR WHEN IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN SECRETLY PROVIDING FINANCIAL HELP TO THEM.

THE LEGISLATION APPROVED TODAY -- WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED UP BY AN APPROPRIATION OF THE ACTUAL MONEY -- IS INTENDED TO KEEP THE TWO STATIONS OPERATING FOR ANOTHER YEAR WHILE A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION STUDIES AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM AND THE GOVERNMENT.

8-7--W0403PED

Comment: Thuermer and Maury have copies.